

**Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy Program
Drug Use Review (DUR) Board
Thursday, December 2, 2010
Meeting Minutes**

DUR Board Members: G. Cordts, R. Ebiasah, B. Gilliam, P. Kahn, M. Kaplan, N. Leikach, E. Munch, K. O'Reilly, N. Sheth, S. Wiener

DHMH: A. Alexandrou, P. Holly, D. Klein, D. Shah, M. Shook, A. Taylor

ACS: I. Ivey, K. Farrakhan

HID: K. Holland, J. Paradis, J. Walker

Provider Synergies: G. McKnight-Smith

Introductions

Visitors Matthew Perry and Lydia Tran, two University of Maryland School of Pharmacy students, were introduced to the Board.

It was also noted that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene logo will be used on the cover slides for the Power Point presentations and handouts used for the meetings.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the September 2, 2010 meeting were approved with no changes.

Board Positions

A certification of appreciation was presented to S. Wiener, who has completed two 3-year terms on the DUR Board. He has been serving as Chairperson of the Board. K. O'Reilly will take over as Chairperson and P. Kahn volunteered to serve as Co-Chair and the Board unanimously voted for his appointment.

Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy Program

Information on the Drug Effectiveness Review Project (DERP) was sent to Board members. In addition information explaining the availability of emergency supplies of non-preferred drugs was also supplied to the Board.

The status of action items from the last meeting was discussed. The feasibility of activating late refill ProDUR alerts for antiretroviral agents is being evaluated. In addition, ACS is preparing the list of the top 100 drug-drug interactions, showing both drugs involved in the alert.

The Pharmacy Program is coordinating efforts with the Mental Hygiene Administration with respect to mailing educational intervention letters to prescribers. The Mental Hygiene

Administration is sending educational articles to prescribers of mental health drugs and their focus at this time is targeting the use of antipsychotics in young children along with issues related to non-adherence of mental health drugs. The summary of drug-drug interactions prepared by the Department along with the help of Board members has been sent to the Mental Hygiene Administration to inform them of the kinds of educational intervention that may be undertaken this year by the Pharmacy Program. It was recommended by Board members that the drug-drug interaction summary also be sent to the MedChi Society. The summary may also be used in the future by the Pharmacy Program, ACS and HID to develop ProDUR alerts for contraindicated drug-drug interactions. These alerts would be hard edits requiring an override from the pharmacist much like current therapeutic duplication alerts are handled now. The Pharmacy Program will keep the DUR Board informed if any such hard edits for contraindicated drug-drug interactions are to be implemented in the future.

An e-mail will be sent to all Board members citing web links to the Pharmacy Program website and newsletter website. Discussion was held on the possibility of using the Advisory e-mail list server as a means of distributing pharmacy newsletter electronically to those pharmacists for whom e-mail addresses are available.

ACS State Healthcare Systems ProDUR and Prior Authorization

A review of the 3rd quarter Preferred Drug List (PDL) Prior Authorizations was given. There were no significant changes in the numbers of requests. Cymbalta[®] had the highest number of Prior Authorization requests.

Therapeutic Duplication (TD) alerts were reviewed. Anticonvulsants represented 35% of those alerts. Clonazepam had the highest number of TD alerts. Of Early Refill alerts, anti-anxiety medications represented 33% of the total and antidepressants 26%. With Drug-Drug Interaction alerts, antidepressants and SSRIs accounted for 84% of the total.

With regard to the report on DUR conflict interventions, Prescriber Consulted (MO) continues to be the most frequent outcome reported by the dispensing pharmacy. Early refills accounted for the highest ProDUR cost avoidance figures.

Health Information Designs, Inc. Retrospective DUR

Wording in intervention letters sent to pharmacists was updated to clarify that pharmacists should use their professional judgment and discuss issues raised in the letter with the recipient or the prescriber.

Several criteria are in place which alert for adverse drug events or drug-drug interactions that could result in QTc elevations. Sixty recipients met the criteria and letters were sent to prescribers regarding this issue.

HID suggested that perhaps drug interactions with antidepressants, namely SSRIs, would be an appropriate topic for future educational interventions. Board members agreed and recommended these types of drug interactions be evaluated. It was also suggested that an index or summary of serious drug interactions be included in pharmacy newsletter. Board members noted that patients do not always tell prescribers what medications they are taking. It was also noted that at times a drug interaction is a beneficial effect, which may help to augment the effects of a particular drug.

The Continuing Education program held at St. Agnes Hospital on October 16, 2010, was a success. Four speakers on topics related to Appropriate and Effective Prescribing of Mental Health Medications by the Non-Psychiatrist were featured at the seminar. Of attendees, 33 were prescribers and 45 were pharmacists. Both CME and CE credits were given to attendees. St. Agnes was thanked again for providing the location and other help with the program. Several topics including, treatment of HIV and infectious disease was recommended by attendees as a topic for the next education seminar.

New Business

Board members are encouraged to e-mail A. Taylor when they are not clear on any issue discussed during the Board meetings.

The Pharmacy & Therapeutics meeting months have been changed to May and November in 2011.

DUR Board quarterly meetings will continue to be held on the first Thursday of March, June, September and December. An e-mail of the exact dates will be sent to Board members following this meeting.

Honorarium checks will be sent to Board members before the end of the year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.